Statement

TABLE ; *Proportion of vehicles to population in the major metropolitan Cities*

City	No. of registered vehicles (as on 31-3-1991)	Total population as per 1991 Census	Total pollution load (MT/Day)*
Delhi	1,812,967	8,427,083	871.92
Bombay	628,488	9,909,547	548.8
Calcutta	475,032	4,388,262	244.77
Madras	543,978	3,795,028	188.54
Kanpur	169,066	1,958,282	71.99
Hyderabad	581,177	3,005,496	169.03
Ahmedabad	374,128	2,948,547	243.94
Lucknow	215,547	1,592,010	69.58
Bangalore	577,000	3,264,261	253.72

*The total pollution load is in terms of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen and particulars emanating from automobiles.

Measures taken to check poaching of Tigers

4582. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the tiger population in the country when census was taken in 1989 and their population in 1993 ;

(b) whether Government have made any critical assessment of the measures taken to check poaching of tigers and the role of the State Governments concerned in preventing the poaching of tigers in their respective States ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(d) whether any stringent measures are contemplated by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The estimated population of Tigers in the country as per 1989 and 1993 census are 4334 and 3750 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the Protected Areas. Steps have been initiated to set up a special strike force in the Project Tiger Areas.

(d) The measures taken by the Government to save the tigers, include :—

(i) Setting up of a Tiger Crises Cell in the Ministry ;

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around protected areas ; and

(iii) Steps have been taken to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger areas.

Increase in Green Cover in the Country

4583. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that satellite monitoring of environment has shown that green cover has been increasing in India ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what expansion of green cover has been there in Andhra Pradesh over the last five years as per satellite monitoring ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND

FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to State of Forest Report 1993 of Forest Survey of India, the total forest/tree cover of the country has increased by 925 Sq. Km. over last assessment report of 1991.

(c) Comparative study of State of Forest Reports of Forest Survey of India shows that forest cover of Andhra Pradesh in 1991 assessment report was same, as in 1989 report i.e. 47,911 Sq. Km. but assessment made in 1993 shows a decline of forest cover of the state by 33 Sq. Km. over 1991 assessment.

Cleaning of Ponds in Bhopal

4584. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had announced in the month of February, 1994, a scheme to clean the ponds in Bhopal ;

(b) if so, whether this scheme is being implemented with the help and assistance of Japanese Government ;

(c) what are the main features of the proposed scheme ;

(d) by when the scheme is likley to be implemented ;

(e) whether other ponds in the State of Madhya Pradesh are also being considering for cleaning ;

(f) if so, whether any scheme is being provided for these ponds ; and

(g) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Project on "Conservation and Management of Upper and Lower Lakes of Bhopal", has been posed to the Government of Japan for provision of financial assistance. The total cost of the proposed project is Rs. 118 crores to be utilised over a five year period. The project includes activities like desilting and dreding, catchment area treatment, prevention of pollution, management of shoreline for fringe areas and improvement and management of water quality. The project proposal is presently being appraised by the Japanese authorities.

(e) to (g) In order to check water pollution, particularly in urban areas, a National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) has been prepared by the Government of India to undertake activities like catchment area treatment, desilting and weed control, prevention of pollution from point and non-point sources, R&D studies etc. Bhoj and Sagar lakes from Madhya Pradesh are included in the Plan.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh also have a scheme entitled, "Sarovar Hamari Darohar", for improving the conservation and management of water-bodies. Under this scheme, the State Government have undertaken the cleaning of the Radhasagar tank and the Niwari tank in Takamgarh District. The State Government have also identified the Yashwant Sagar (Indore), Morevan, Mandaur and Tiger Reservoir (Gwalior) and Govindgarh Sagar (Rewa) for improved conservation and management.

Publications brought out by the Zoological Survey of India

4585. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the latest publications brought out by the Zoological Survey of India ;

(b) what are their prices ; and

(c) whether these publications are available in the Parliament Library ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) There are twelve publications brought out recently by Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The details of their titles and prices are given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) The publications referred to in answer to part (a) of the question have been sent to Parliament Library by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on 13-4-1994.